



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

2017 Annual Planning Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved August 19, 2017, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) met for the 2017 Annual Planning Meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at the Tremont Lodge & Resort, located at 7726 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway in Townsend, Tennessee.

The **objectives** of the meeting were to:

- Develop an increased understanding of and commitment to the goals of the board.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and achievements of the board in FY 2017.
- Begin development of the FY 2018 work plan.

The meeting was facilitated by Jenny Freeman, StrataG. A copy of the meeting agenda is included in Attachment 1.

Members Present

Leon Baker	Eddie Holden	Fred Swindler
Kathryn Bales	Belinda Price	John Tapp
David Branch	Leon Shields	Ed Trujillo
Richard Burroughs	Bonnie Shoemaker	Tara Walker
Martha Deaderick	Deni Sobek	Dennis Wilson

Members Absent

Christopher Beatty
Rosario Gonzalez
Shelly Lohmann
Venita Thomas
Rudy Weigel
Phil Yager

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Dave Adler, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy,
Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4
Jay Mullis, Acting Manager, DOE-OREM and ORSSAB DDFO
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, DOE-OREM

Others Present

Jenny Freeman, Meeting Facilitator, StrataG
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Freeman introduced herself as the facilitator and welcomed the members to the meeting.

Board Chair Belinda Price opened the meeting by welcoming new and returning board members and introducing DOE liaisons and regulators.

Mr. Mullis briefly introduced the new members appointed to the board in July 2017. New members present at the meeting were: David Branch, Leon Shields, Bonnie Shoemaker, John Tapp, and Tara Walker. One new member, Shelly Lohman, was not present. Formal introductions for new board members and student representatives will take place at the September 13, 2017, ORSSAB meeting.

Ms. Freeman reviewed the meeting objectives (listed above) and reminded board members to let staff know if they had needs or questions.

DDFO Comments

Mr. Mullis helped to orient new members to ORSSAB by providing a general introduction to the mission, vision, and goals of OREM's cleanup program in Oak Ridge.

His presentation (Attachment 2) outlined three near-term visions:

- **Vision 2016**—The safe and successful demolition and removal of all five gaseous diffusion building at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). Vision 2016 is complete.
- **Vision 2020**—A goal to clean up the remaining portion of ETTP and reindustrialize the site. He emphasized that DOE would continue stewardship activities for parts of the site in perpetuity. Mr. Mullis gave an overview of facilities that have been removed to date and what buildings remain. Some buildings, he said, would be particularly challenging due to the activities performed there and/or architectural issues.
- **Vision 2024**—An initiative to expand cleanup work to the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and address mercury contamination.

He also reviewed OREM's current near-term priorities: (Mr. Mullis noted that these priorities are not in a particular order of importance.)

- To complete planning for waste disposition and, if appropriate, design of a new disposal facility
 - The site will be full in a few years and onsite disposal is critical to keeping clean up costs reasonable, he said. It would also greatly reduce safety issues that arise from shipping waste across public areas, highways.
- Prepare excess facilities for future demolition, stabilize contaminated facilities and maintaining critical infrastructure
 - Several critical facilities will be addressed in the future at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), he said.
- Evaluate ongoing groundwater studies
- Complete cleanup of ETTP, including meeting historic preservation goals and facilitating redevelopment/reindustrialization of the site
 - Mr. Mullis anticipates groundbreaking for areas that will support the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in the next two years.
- Continue design and construction of the Mercury Treatment Facility
 - Early-start construction may begin before the end of 2017, he said.
- Complete disposition of the U-233 material and begin processing campaign
 - The majority of this project is classified, but Mr. Mullis was able to say DOE is making significant process. Plans are underway for treatment of the waste locally.

- Complete contact- and remote-handled transuranic waste processing
 - The first new shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) since 2014 went out this month. The goal is one shipment a week, he said, but issues at WIPP make it more likely that shipments will be somewhat slower – perhaps one shipment every other week.
- Construct and operate the Transuranic Sludge Test Facility
 - This is 10-15 years from construction, Mr. Mullis said.

He went on to give an overview of Oak Ridge's current EM budget. Oak Ridge has done well in recent federal budgets and current prospects are good, he said. He mentioned one significant challenge is addressing labor costs, which take the lion's share of funds. He reported that Oak Ridge has been working with headquarters to increase this budget for a smooth transition to cleanup at other Oak Ridge sites.

Mr. Mullis reiterated the importance of cleaning up and reindustrializing ETPP, modernizing facilities and removing legacy materials at Y-12 and ORNL, and recognizing the historical significance of Oak Ridge to EM's vision for Oak Ridge.

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

- Ed Trujillo asked about funding for historic preservation.

Mr. Mullis said that funding comes from non-defense funds and it should take \$20 million to \$24 million to "do what is needed." He said Dave Adler was working with the city of Oak Ridge on who will operate the non-park facilities outside the K-25 footprint when EM work is complete. EM will continue to fund this, probably through a grant, until a decision is made, he said.

- Mr. Trujillo asked about remote-handled waste.

Mr. Mullis said it is about one-third of the waste being stored. He said these wastes may be shipped to New Mexico, but it will involve some new permitting. He indicated the transport process is fairly expensive. In a follow-up, Mr. Trujillo asked if advances in robotic technology have been applied to the remote handling process. Mr. Mullis said DOE is currently using older model equipment because upgrades do not make financial sense due to the lifecycle of the facility.

- Board Vice Chair Dennis Wilson asked about U-233 shipping and processing timeline.

Mr. Mullis said, at the current funding level, it is about a five-year project. Mr. Mullis went on to explain that material storage at ORNL is "a mini Y-12" and the facility drives the high security posture at ORNL. When that facility is emptied, the security posture can be dropped, which will save costs, he said.

- Kristof Czartoryski asked about the planned amount of federal funding in Oak Ridge after U-233 cleanup.

Mr. Mullis said DOE would like that funding to remain in Oak Ridge and be transferred to other facilities here in need of cleanup. He emphasized the benefit of having Senator Lamar Alexander as an advocate for Oak Ridge at the federal level. It's also helpful that Oak Ridge has an excellent track record of spending money well and getting results, Mullis said.

Board Mission and Accomplishments

Ms. Price reviewed the board's mission statement and gave members an overview of how a recommendation is made. She discussed the board's accomplishments for FY 2017 (Attachment 3).

The board:

- Submitted four recommendations to DOE
- Approved two EM SSAB chairs recommendations as a result of collaboration among the eight SSABs during semiannual conferences or "chairs meetings"

- Took part in DOE EM's annual Community Budget Workshop to learn of OREM's cleanup priorities for FY 2019 and to gather background for a recommendation on OREM's 2019 budget priorities
- Represented ORSSAB as liaison to the Consulting Parties to the Memorandum of Agreement for the Interpretation of ETTP, and provided comments on the Preliminary Design Documents for ETTP Site Interpretation and K-25 Historic Preservation
- Completed a number of public outreach goals
- Attended three national meetings and conferences
- Participated in a variety of special events and site tours

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

- Martha Deadrick asked if copies of recommendations are sent to state and federal representatives. Ms. Price said she was not sure, but that they could have access to them online. Several federal agencies do get notifications, she added.

Board Operations

Prior to the meeting, board members were asked to respond to a survey about board operations (included in Attachment 4). Ms. Freeman provided summary points of the group's answers to each question.

Ms. Freeman discussed how the board has refined its processes over the years to improve its impact. The survey is a serious component of that work. She thanked members for responding. The board is all about engagement – field trips, issue management, and getting to know each other, she said.

Results of 2017 Board Member Survey

1. Questions 1 a., b., and c. regarding field trip participation

Ms. Freeman reported that the majority of members are available to participate in field trips during workdays, but advance notice is needed. The majority preferred mornings and respondents were evenly split on the question of Saturday trips.

Ms. Noe explained that the tours are listed in the board's work plan, and notifications are sent out by staff during those months in which tours are held.

Mr. Adler said while it may be more convenient for DOE representatives to have just one trip, sometimes it is better to have smaller groups and that DOE is willing to make the commitment to multiple site tour dates.

2. Questions 2 a., b., and c. regarding board engagement in issue management

Ms. Freeman reported that the majority (7) were interested in playing the role of issue manager. She noted there were some caveats that should be kept in mind for the coming year.

Regarding encouraging members to engage, Ms. Freeman reported three respondents thought members need a better explanation of the role and responsibilities of being an issue manager.

Ms. Freeman asked Ms. Price to elaborate on the issue manager/recommendation process. Ms. Price said the board has struggled in the past few years to get members to take on issues, and there have been problems with conflicts of members going on tours. This caused them, she said, to lose confidence and drop out of the issue groups. Ms. Price emphasized that members should remain engaged even if they cannot attend all three "touch points" on an issue (the main board meeting presentation, the tour, and the subsequent EMS meeting). She encouraged members to focus on only two or three issues.

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Mr. Branch asked about other ways new members could assist. He said he would be willing to travel to investigate topics or other board issues.

Ms. Noe said DOE does not expect new members to lead an issue immediately, but wants them to participate so in future years they will be prepared for more responsibility.

3. *Questions 3 a. and b. regarding social events.*

Ms. Freeman reported that members overwhelmingly want the board to hold social events like last year.

Additional Comments:

Ms. Noe said she thought dinner before the annual meeting was an excellent way to introduce new members. She reminded the board that the September meeting will be at the Olive Garden in Knoxville and that it would be a good introductory meeting for new members.

Work Plan Topics and Discussion

Ms. Noe discussed the “Visual Guide to ORSSAB’s Annual Planning” (Attachment 5).

Each year the annual meeting provides an opportunity for DOE and regulators to discuss possible topics for the upcoming fiscal year and for ORSSAB members to make suggestions for DOE to consider in developing a work plan. Following the meeting, DOE will develop the board’s FY 2018 work plan and schedule of meetings, based on all of the input provided.

The draft list of topics for FY 2018 should be available prior to the September board meeting, she added. The goal is for a work plan to be signed into effect, by both Jay Mullis and ORSSAB’s chair, by the start of the fiscal year in October.

Ms. Noe explained that prior to the board meetings each month, the Executive Committee meets to review the work plan topic and discuss board business. On the second Wednesday of most months, ORSSAB holds a formal board meeting, which typically includes a presentation on the work plan topic to provide a general background and introduction for the board. Afterwards, a site tour is arranged to give board members “hands-on” experience with the issue. Following the site tour, the board’s EMS Committee meets, generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month, for more in-depth discussion. The committee meetings (and issue managers) help guide the board in the process of making recommendations.

She also noted additional opportunities for supplemental training. If the board is interested in supplemental training opportunities, staff will need to be notified so that arrangements can be made. Once the FY 2018 work plan has been established, a sign-up sheet with options for issue managers and supplemental training will be distributed.

DOE Topics

Mr. Adler presented DOE’s suggested topics (Attachment 6)::

- Participation in ongoing efforts to assure sufficient waste disposal capacity.
 - Mr. Adler said this issue will be hugely important for the board this year due to the upcoming need for a new disposal site to handle Y-12 and ORNL waste cleanup. The board has given one recommendation on this topic indicating a preference to locate the site in Bear Creek Valley. Mr. Adler said DOE would like the board to focus on this issue again and provide a more detailed assessment/opinion of several potential sites within Bear Creek Valley that DOE has identified.
 - DOE is working with partners in TDEC and EPA to identify and describe a few top site options to present to the board, he said.

- Participation in efforts to address excess contaminated facilities.
 - Y-12 is 800 acres and it's important to shrink the secure area to make cleanup cheaper and more efficient. It should ideally be reduced to less than 200 acres, he noted.
- Evaluation of ongoing groundwater efforts.
 - Mr. Adler reminded members this is going to be an ongoing issue for decades to come. DOE has hundreds of groundwater wells in place, he said. He went over the water supplies provided to residents in certain areas near Melton Valley that have had some mixed groundwater quality results. He said this year a focus would be groundwater at ETTP and whether EM could make a final decision on transferring those areas.
- Input on reuse and historic preservation activities at ETTP.
 - DOE is very close to being done with this 20-year project, he said. A significant level of completion will be reached in 2020 under the current schedule. The goal is to leave behind something environmentally remediated but also of use to the community.
 - Throughout cleanup, managing the historical implications of the site has been an emphasis as well as making portions into conservation areas. EM would like to put as much as possible of the site into private or community hands. There will probably be several field trips on this topic.
- Provision of input into the FY 2020 budget development.

Additional Comments & Questions

- Ms. Price commented that over the last few years DOE had already expressed preference for a site and she thought the board had already expressed its site opinion at that time.

Mr. Adler clarified that the initial documentation did favor a particular location based on prior citizen input. He said DOE believes it can engineer a site there safely. However, DOE feels it can be created safely at several locations. He referenced the board recommendation that asked DOE to put the new waste disposal in a site that had previously been used for waste, which actually includes several other sites "in play" as well. DOE is now trying to narrow those and make that final decision with the board's input, he said. He said the differences between the three sites are modest: how much reworking of the site, how much deforestation is involved.

- Mr. Trujillo asked about the issue of community response and questions about the site regarding its nearness to the public.

Mr. Adler said this is still an issue that DOE is paying attention to, but feels that much of the public's concerns and comments have been addressed. He mentioned the current "dispute" among DOE/TDEC/EPA is more properly termed an issue resolution and is being worked through.

- Mr. Burroughs mentioned the importance of pulling the DOE footprint in, shrinking it, as a goal. He asked to see where the ideal waste site would be to support that.

Mr. Adler said that would be addressed in the next slide.

- Mr. Baker asked about the opposition to the Bear Creek site.

Mr. Adler said it was less opposition and more legitimate questions from community members inquiring into the landfill. He said people seemed more comfortable with the landfill once their questions were answered.

TDEC Topics

Mr. Czartoryski provided TDEC's suggested topics (Attachment 7):

- Sufficient disposal capacity for future Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act-generated waste (commonly known as CERCLA waste)
 - Mr. Czartoryski suggested ORSSAB address the potential location of a new onsite facility, volume reduction technologies, and additional offsite and onsite disposal options.

- He emphasized the need to safely dispose of material where it cannot escape containment over the long term. He gave an example of mercury debris and determining how to properly treat the material and create barriers to contamination.
- He addressed the TDEC/DOE/EPA dispute originally mentioned by Mr. Adler. He said the issue is now at a senior level and researching needed additional information.
- Processing and disposition of transuranic waste
 - Mr. Czartoryski addressed Trench 13 as well as plans for the Transuranic Sludge Processing Facility.
 - He said this issue only includes two parties, DOE and TDEC.
 - He emphasized the need to remove these high-level wastes. Tennessee has less funds than some other states to spend here, but is focused on “working smarter” and learning from the experience of other sites.
- Assessments of groundwater—Mr. Czartoryski supported modeling activities and DOE’s efforts to construct a regional groundwater flow model. He advocated for greater implementation of groundwater remedies following several treatability studies.
 - He said this is one of the most successful remediation projects. He added more work is needed because of the hydrogeologic complexity of the area. There are some gaps in the data that need to be filled in with additional samples.
 - TDEC is interested in assistance and recommendation from the board on future groundwater projects.
- Mercury remediation
 - Mr. Czartoryski addressed releases of mercury from Y-12 and plans for the Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12.
 - TDEC would like to have treatment in place before building demolition starts and would like input from SSAB on the project and strategies for mercury abatement.

Mr. Czartoryski emphasized that while TDEC may have different opinions on implementation, it shares the same goals with DOE of cleaning up the sites. He noted topics are the same this year due to the ongoing importance and complexity of these issues.

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

- Ms. Deadrick asked for background on Trench 13.

Mr. Czartoryski gave an overview of the removal agreements and particular wastes in Trench 13 that impacted work there. TDEC feels this is an important project to finish, he said. It is currently stabilized but not emptied.

EPA Topics

Ms. Jones discussed EPA’s topics (Attachment 8), several of which had already been addressed in DOE and TDEC presentations:

- DOE Oak Ridge groundwater projects.
 - There is an investigation report due in 2018 and DOE will wrap up ETPP work at K-1401. EPA is looking at time, cost, and restoration of groundwater.
 - She discussed the current work in ETPP Zones 1 and 2.
- Groundwater strategy.
 - EPA wants the strategy to include groundwater and surface water resources and implementation of the new plan to be accelerated.
 - EPA would like the board to assist with looking at sites and recommending completion options.

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Ms. Jones mentioned community concerns regarding groundwater and migration of water across the reservation. She said EPA would like some deferred groundwater work to be moved up and undertaken earlier. She also touched on the ongoing “dispute” between the three parties.

Ms. Jones referenced a 2008 DOE document on groundwater cleanup to support the importance of “not leaving groundwater until last” in the cleanup process. Included were previous groundwater images as well as plume assessments from cleanup contractors.

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

- Mr. Trujillo asked about the groundwater strategy document put out by DOE.

Ms. Jones said EPA wants to look at groundwater strategy and incorporate work prior to the site’s target completion of 2047. EPA would prefer to address groundwater before tearing down buildings. She emphasized that the groundwater strategy is a living document.

- Ms. Deadrick asked for clarification on the EPA letter asking ORSSAB to assist DOE in acceleration of overall site cleanup.

Ms. Jones specifically addressed the phrase “operable units.” These are in terms of distinct waste placement, buildings coming down, and areas of contamination, she said.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the meeting facilitator invited board member suggestions on additional FY 2018 topics:

- Ms. Deaderick said she thinks Trench 13 would be an easy, quicker issue to address than groundwater issues, for example, and would be “a great PR move.”

Mr. Mullis responded that the board should be aware of the worker safety issues involved with Trench 13. It may seem quick and easy, but under current safety rules, that is probably not the case, he said. He estimated due to new rules and orders that have come into place since the original work it would cost millions of dollars and a year of work just to generate the necessary paperwork.

- Mr. Trujillo asked on follow-up: Does DOE have a document detailing the status of that trench and potential remedies?

Mr. Mullis said it’s a future milestone. Mr. Czartoryski added that issue is part of the dispute that is ongoing and the agencies are trying to work these issues out. Mr. Trujillo said he just wanted to know more on DOE’s plan. Mr. Mullis said DOE prefers to leave the material in place and the state would like to move it immediately. He said the reality will probably be a compromise between the two.

- Ms. Sobek asked about the ORSSAB display at the American Museum of Science and Energy being out of date.

She asked whether the board could create an updated display. Mr. Osborne said the museum requires ORSSAB to remove its display as part of the museum’s move to a new facility.

- Mr. Trujillo asked about DOE’s plan to shrink the secure area at Y-12 and asked about excess facilities.

Mr. Adler said that these two are connected issues and that most of the buildings at Y-12 will be torn down. But removing all the debris and soil will be the big hurdle. It’s imperative to shrink the security footprint at Y-12 first, he said, due to cost savings. Mr. Mullis concurred and said there would likely be a 40% increase in costs if the security fence remains in place. He pointed to the Biology Complex as a facility that is currently outside the fence and is an attractive target for removal for DOE. He said it will take “tens of millions of dollars” to move the fence, and that project is up to the National Nuclear Security Administration to implement.

- Ms. Price noted the board has five topics and that perhaps more topics are needed.

Ms. Noe mentioned that some FY17 topics have had to be moved to FY18. She said she is considering how to separate the topics efficiently. She reminded everyone to keep in mind the work plan is a living document and can be adjusted to address new issues that may arise through the year. Of particular interest, she said, is the board's input on the DOE budget each year.

Plan for Issue Group Sign Up

Once the FY 2018 work plan has been established by DOE, a sign-up sheet with options for issue managers and supplemental training will be distributed, she said. Board members are encouraged to sign up for issues at that time. The draft plan will be distributed at the September meeting, but Ms. Noe encouraged members to think about the topics they've learned about today over the coming month so they can choose some interests for them. She reminded members that not every issue necessarily requires members to issue a recommendation, but can be just for board education. She would like everyone to sign up for at least one issue to start and more can be added through the year if members want.

Board Business

Mr. Burroughs presented a slate of candidates for board officers for FY 2018. The nominations are: Chair: Dennis Wilson; Vice Chair: Belinda Price; Secretary: Richard Burroughs.

Mr. Burroughs said a vote will take place at the September 13, 2017, meeting.

Mr. Trujillo discussed the "Recommendations on the FY 2019 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget Priorities," (Attachment 9) developed by the EMS Committee for approval by the board.

Leon Baker moved to approve the recommendation. Richard Burroughs seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Jones remarked that Jeff Crane of EPA will be retiring in January for health reasons.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Attachments (9) to these minutes are available on request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the August 19, 2017, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Richard Burroughs, Secretary



Dennis Wilson, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
DW/ach

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